

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

1-24-22

Official Minutes as of 2-7-22

1 **Call to Order**

2 Members Present: Vice Chair John Morin, Tiler Eaton, Donna Danis

3 Absent: Chair Ben Bartlett, Tony Dumas

4 Others: Lorraine Petrini, Chris Sterndale, Dale Sylvia, Tom Butkiewicz, Sam Demeritt, Susan
5 Mooney, Debra Kimball, Cheryl Smith, Raelene Shippee-Rice, Pat Vachon, Jeremy Loguee, Al
6 Vachon, Rhoda Capron, Steve Capron, Dianne Wright, Beth Benham, Nancy Frost, Kathleen
7 Cinfo, Catherine Barrons, Merri Dwyer, Arthur Proulx, Robin Proulx, Debra Kiernan, Jaye
8 Vilchock, Laurie Legard, Gary Anderson, Bonnie Winona MacKinnon, Mark Pedersen, Matt
9 Curry

10 The Vice Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

11 **Approve Minutes**

12 **Ms. Danis made a motion to approve the public and non-public minutes from 1-10-22 as**
13 **written. Mr. Eaton seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 3-0.**

14 **BOS Reports from Assigned Boards/Committees**

15 *Budget Committee*

16 Meetings are over for the season.

17 *Planning Board*

18 Meeting on Wednesday.

19 *CIP*

20 No update

21 *300th Celebration Committee*

22 There will be an upcoming meeting.

23 *Marston Property*

24 No update

25 **Town Administrator Report**

26 Mr. Morin welcomed Chris Sterndale back. Mr. Sterndale said the ARPA final rule has come
27 out. There is a lot more flexibility on how to use that money.

28 **Action Items from Last Meetings**

29 2/7/22: tax deed waivers

30 **General Business**

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31 *Mask Mandate*

32 Mr. Morin suggested keeping the mask mandate until the next meeting. Mr. Sterndale suggested
33 keeping the mandate through deliberative session as the deliberative session will be masked. The
34 Board was in agreement.

35 *Veteran's Tax Credit*

36 **Ms. Danis approved Veteran's tax credit requests for Map 16 6-1, Map 58 Lot 7, and Map**
37 **8 Lot 9-23. Mr. Eaton seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 3-0.**

38 *Recycling Fees*

39 Mr. Sterndale said there is a proposal for increases for disposing items like couches, mattresses,
40 etc. There is a difference on what the town is being charged for tires and that will be reflected in
41 the fees. Mr. Morin suggested rounding things up to even numbers with no change and round up
42 to \$5, \$10 and \$20. There was a consensus of the Board.

43 Mr. Sterndale said there is a requirement for clear bags at the recycling center. There are not
44 enough people at the recycling center policing the clear bags and some people use white, etc. The
45 Board opted to leave things as is.

46 *Deliberative Session, Election Planning & Town Meeting Warrant*

47 There was a discussion on citizen warrant articles and validity questions. Mr. Sterndale said that
48 they can decide what information to release to the public regarding their lawyer's opinion.

49 **Appointments**

50 *Conservation Commission Hearing*

51 Mr. Demeritt opened the public hearing pursuant to RSA 36-A:5, regarding the expenditure of up
52 to \$130,000 from the Conservation Fund for a project on 311 Stage Road, owned by the
53 Caprons. They are looking to conserve their land and hopes it will be used for farming. Mr.
54 Demeritt introduced the group and said there is a quorum. Mr. Loguee from SELT said there are
55 important soils on this land and it's close to Mulligan Forest which is an important corridor for
56 wildlife. The Caprons have agreed to sell the land for \$75K which is a reduction in price. Ms.
57 Smith said they have met with different potential buyers who are farmers. Ms. Smith read a note
58 from Charlene Anderson who is in favor of this project and would like additional money put
59 towards this project for the Caprons.

60 **Ms. Smith made a motion to increase the funds given to the Caprons from the**
61 **Conservation Commission by \$25K. Ms. Mooney seconded. It was approved unanimously.**

62 Instead of \$130k, \$155K will be given out of the Conservation Commission for this land to the
63 Caprons.

64 Ms. Benham spoke in favor of the conservation's decision.

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65 Mr. Morin asked if they are limiting what type of farming can occur on this land. Mr. Loguee
66 said they are not limiting as long as it is using best agricultural practices.

67 Ms. Dwyer said she supported responsible stewardship of the land for this project and in general.

68 Ms. Rice said the corridor for wildlife is so sacred and she is in support of this.

69 Mr. Eaton asked if this property would fall under warrant article that has been proposed
70 regarding Conservation Commission. Jeremy said SELT will do the future monitoring.

71 Mr. Capron said they have been really happy in Nottingham for the past 40 years. They wanted
72 to leave the land as well as they could and working with SELT was the best way to do that. They
73 are hoping for a farming couple but happy to protect the land. Ms. Capron said they hope to find
74 someone who will farm but because its conserved, there is the ability to farm it in the future.

75 Mr. Demeritt closed the hearing at 7:22pm.

76 **Ms. Danis made a motion to approve the expenditure for up to \$155k from the**
77 **Conservation Commission for the land on 311 Stage Road. Mr. Eaton seconded.**
78 **Unanimously approved by a vote of 3-0.**

79 **Ms. Danis made a motion to accept executory interest in the easement pending the review**
80 **from the town attorney. Mr. Eaton seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 3-0.**

81 Mr. Demeritt asked about the 3 warrant articles regarding Conservation Commission and what
82 happens if all pass as they are some conflicts. Mr. Sterndale said the first article will be
83 implemented first.

84 *Moderator Bonnie Winona-MacKinnon*

85 Ms. MacKinnon said the main issues is the venue for March elections. Those who work elections
86 would like it to be at the school. The School Board and the school are amenable to having it at
87 the school. Also, when they switch back and forth, a mailer has to be sent to every voter. The
88 Board is in consensus of having the elections at the school.

89 There will be two rooms for deliberative sessions; one for masks and one without.

90 Ms. MacKinnon noted that it's against the law to be disruptive at the deliberative session; she
91 does try to allow everyone to speak. She encourages the BOS to partake of any trainings for
92 elections beforehand. She said at the state training this year, it was the first year they went over
93 how to handle disruptive meetings.

94 *Chief Vilchock & Gary Anderson*

95 Mr. Anderson came to the BOS to speak on behalf of the fire dept. He said that he has seen that
96 many firefighters who were new to the department get trained and leave due to the schedule
97 provided by the Nottingham Fire Dept. He is excited to see that the chief is bringing on full-time
98 members. He said currently they have two full-time EMT/fire dept. working over 60 hours. That

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99 extra overtime paid would cover the costs of 1.5 full-time people. He noted that the call volume
100 has increased as well.

101 Chief said the fire dept. did not shut down at all during COVID. They provide a valuable service
102 to the town.

103 He said Article 14 is for a new ambulance; it's independent of Article 5.

104 Chief is asking if it will be a standard for putting fire dept. personnel on a warrant article instead
105 of the budget. Mr. Morin said it's on a warrant article because it's a large change; if it was one
106 person, it would likely not be. Mr. Sterndale said it's a large change to the department and it's
107 SB2 voting style.

108 Chief asked if COLA was for part-time employees as well as full-time. Mr. Sterndale said both.
109 Chief asked if that was for per diem as well. Mr. Sterndale said it's up to the Board but he
110 believes it would be.

111 Chief spoke about Article 5. He doesn't think the wording is clear and he is questioning the
112 dollar amount. Ms. Danis said the wording came from the lawyer. She said the communication
113 wasn't as crisp as it could have been due to circumstances this year. There was an extrapolation
114 from the budget and that's how the numbers were put in. Chief said Article 5 is confusing. Ms.
115 Danis said they can't change the wording right now. Chief and Ms. Danis agreed they can
116 change it at the deliberative session.

117 There was discussion about salary lines for fire dept. There is offsetting money in payroll lines,
118 Mr. Sterndale said. The BOS or the fire dept. can make changes to these warrant articles at the
119 deliberative session. The Board and fire chief will work on getting to the number that they all
120 agree to.

121 **Review Action Items for Next Meeting**

122 300th Celebration Committee, mask mandate, tax waivers, recycling fees, validity of citizen
123 petition warrant articles, Article 5

124 **Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3 II (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and/or (l) if required.**

125 **Adjourn**

126 **Ms. Danis made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 8:16pm and go into non-public**
127 **RSA 91-A:3 II (a and e). Mr. Eaton seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Morin-yay, Mr. Eaton-**
128 **yay, Ms. Danis-yay. Unanimously approved by a vote of 3-0.**

129 The non-public meeting ended at 9pm.

130

131 **Ms. Danis made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Mr. Eaton**
132 **seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Morin-yay, Mr. Eaton-yay, Ms. Danis-yay. Unanimously**
133 **approved by a vote of 3-0.**

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135 **Ms. Danis made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 9pm. Mr. Eaton seconded. Roll**
136 **call vote: Mr. Morin-yay, Mr. Eaton-yay, Ms. Danis-yay. Unanimously approved by a**
137 **vote of 3-0.**

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